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# Atlantic Beef

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**Publisher & Editor:** Dirk van Loon

**Editorial Assistants:** Jack Scrine  
Mary Apossos

**Office Manager:** Chassity Allison

**Advertising:** Janie Smith-Clattenburg  
Jannine Russell

**Production Coordinator:** Angie Fredericks

**Production:** Stephen Nickerson

**Webmaster:** Angie Fredericks

**Phone:** 902-354-5411

**Website:** www.AtlanticFarmer.com

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COVER: This cow is part of a mixed herd in Emyvale, P.E.I. (Nina Linton photo)

**SUBSCRIPTION FORM ON PAGE 27.**

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# Winding down

## Great pasture season; so-so for hay

As days grow shorter and nights cooler, pastures that responded beautifully to copious amounts of rain earlier this summer and slowed through August are now rebounding just in time for a checking frost. For many we spoke with, making hay – especially good, early hay – was a heart-breaking experience.

Sodden meadows brought to mind the comment of an old friend who, visiting Prince Edward Island one wet summer years ago, cursed the lack of rocks, which he had a-plenty on his own Nova Scotia farm. “You get stuck in the mud and there isn’t a stone to be found to put under your tire.”

It was a pleasure being able to get to Truro on Labour Day weekend for a few hours of the Purebred Sheep Breeders Association of Nova Scotia, where auctioneer Laurie Parker pulled bids totaling \$49,500 on a total of 215 lots representing 11 breeds. Full results of that sale can be found at [AtlanticFarmer.com](http://AtlanticFarmer.com) (follow

the “Sheep Sale” link). Must say, it is in a way satisfying to see a Minister of Agriculture, in this case Nova Scotia’s John MacDonell, getting down and dirty – well, not too dirty – while bringing some of his own Suffolk ewes into the sale ring.

At long last good news is trickling from the Atlantic Beef Products (ABP) federal abattoir in Albany, P.E.I. Under the guidance of plant President Paul de Jonge, ABP is killing up to 300 per week, contributing to premiums paid to producers of cattle meeting the criteria for certified Island Beef, and moving product onto Sobeys, SuperStore, and Co-op Atlantic shelves.

Things are woolier for Brookside, the co-op abattoir in Bible Hill, N.S., that’s turned itself inside out to meet federal standards for killing sheep. They’re still waiting for CFIA to inspect the beautifully renovated facilities and give the co-op a green light to ship lamb interprovincially.

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**“By the side”**  
an editorial comment

*Atlantic Beef and Sheep* has phoned CFIA in Moncton asking why the delay and patiently awaits a reply.

Strawberry growers in Nova Scotia beset by virus-bearing aphids are asking government to do more than offer loans to help make up for acres of berries plowed under. It’s the same plea heard from beef farmers in the wake of BSE. What good is it to add loan to debt? A number of those strawberry growers also grow beef. They can dig into their files, pull out letters of complaint written years ago stating their case, simply replace “beef” with “berry,” and fire them off again.

Risk insurance costs too much, one berry farmer told CBC the other day. And so it does. Thus the wisdom of that old, old saying, “Don’t put all your eggs in one basket.” Why put all of your resources into beef or berries and fade quietly into the landscape when you can mix the two, add sheep, and go down in flames?


How’s that for a cynical view? Seriously, a mix has got to be a better bet for most any endeavor – just look at the improving world of beef – and when it comes to farming, better for the environment and the avoidance of monocultural systems; breeding grounds for pests and pestilence.

Hearing the pleas from berry producers and noting how similar they are to those heard previously from beef farmers calls to mind another quote, which Google helped nail down to German theologian Martin Niemöller. This is the allegory about the rise of Nazi “cleansing” of the population. “First they came for the socialists, but I wasn’t a socialist. . . .” The narrator of the allegory does not protest. Then they came for the old, next the mentally challenged, the Gypsies and the Jews. Still not a word. Finally, “and then they came for me. And there was no one left to speak for me.”

Rather than farmers working and speaking as one, we’ve split into commodity groups, too often competing for support rather than working together and speaking as one for the betterment of all. Our federations, alliances, and unions work diligently to correct the situation, and the more power to them, but it has to be frustrating trying to pull together against repelling forces.

Speaking of CBC, radio person Phonse Jessome, interviewing the new head of Dalhousie University's Faculty of Agriculture, David Grant, commented, "Agriculture's not sexy at the moment." Grant should have tromped all over Jessome for that lame statement, but quietly agreed. These two should take in an ACORN conference, or attend one of Nova Scotia's celebrations of small farmers – from the ranks of which are emerging new, enthusiastic, energetic, and yes, sexy, generations of agriculture practitioners.

We are encouraged by response so far to our having brought sheep into the *Atlantic Beef* corral. It has been positive both from readers and advertisers. It is a lot of ground to cover, however, and so we appreciate every effort by readers to send us information about sales, field days, shows, events, and gatherings of every sort. Please send photos (prints or digital – 300 dpi or at least medium resolution for a 5" X 7" image), news, tips, and opinions.

Best to all preparing for fall and winter.  
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## Rib Ends: Notes, news 'n' notions

### Big beef investment

The Canadian government recently announced \$14 million in funding for the Beef Cattle Industry Science Cluster under Growing Forward 2. The funding is to support strategic research that drives efficiencies. The Cluster will also receive industry support in the amount of \$5 million from the Beef Cattle Research Council's National Check-off research allocation, and direct investments from provincial beef industry groups. Provincial governments have pledged about \$1 million to the initiative as well, bringing the total investment in the Cluster to \$20 million.

### Ministers' COOL statements

August 22 Canada again asked the World Trade Organization (WTO) to put in place a compliance panel for the U.S. Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) rule. "Canada considers that the United States has failed to bring its COOL measure into conformity with its WTO obligations," said International Trade Minister Ed Fast and Agriculture

Minister Gerry Ritz in a joint statement. "We believe that the recent amendments to the COOL measure will further hinder the ability of Canadian cattle and hog producers to freely compete in the U.S. market."

### Eye on Zilmax

Health Canada says it is monitoring reports from the U.S. claiming that Zilmax, a growth promotant intended to bulk up cattle pre-slaughter, is causing lameness. The beta-agonist is manufactured by Merck, which suspended sale of the product in August pending results of a safety review. Sales of Zilmax in Canada and the U.S. reportedly totalled around \$159 million last year. The sales interruption was not expected to interfere with cattle sales, according to a Reuter's report, as other, less powerful, growth promotants could be substituted for Zilmax.

### D'Aubin Meat almost ready

Some go to the Atlantic Canadian Opportunities Agency, others may Crowd

## The Barberpole team



This stalwart team of "Shit Disturbers" under the guidance of St. Mary's University parasitologist Gwyneth Jones spent the summer stirring sheep droppings from many Nova Scotia farms into a slurry and, under microscopes, counting Barberpole (and other nematode) eggs and larvae to ascertain levels of infestation by region and season. From the left are Dal Ag student Rebecca Best, Jones, and Kathleen Hipwell and Danielle Thibault, also students at Dal Ag. (AB/S photo)



The D'Aubin family stands on the future site of D'Aubin Family Meats at the base of the North Mountain, just outside Bridgetown. From left to right are: Katelyn, Ralph, Haley, Christie, Jacob, and Jennifer. (Rachel Edwards photo)

Source funds by way of the Internet, but Ralph D'Aubin's idea for raising money to build a provincially inspected abattoir and retail store near Bridgetown, N.S., has been to turn to private investors to top up dollars from other, more traditional sources. With 75 percent of funding secured, the D'Aubins still need to raise the remaining 25 percent. The D'Aubins hope to be up and running by this fall to meet the demands of the upcoming butchering season.

**P.E.I. 4-Her going to nationals**

The 2013 winner of the P.E.I. Mutual 4-H Livestock Judging Competition is beef member Bennett Crane of the Grand River East 4-H Club. As winner of this competition, Crane will now travel to



Bennett Crane, Ellen Crane, and Patti Douglas at the 4-H World Youth Ag-Summit in Calgary. (Photo courtesy of PEI 4-H.)



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## Selling in the *Uppin The Ante Sale*

September 28th at Maple Hill Auction, Hanover, Ontario.

**KBF 1Z** - This long-bodied EC No Doubt heifer is out of another 8 year year old cow that has produced well for us. Raven is a polled heifer with tremendous genetics, EPDs and disposition.

**KBF 12Z** - Glory is a Sparrows Fargo 811U daughter out of a Eureka cow. She is a big, powerful heifer. She is out of an excellent milking cow family.

**KBF 19Z** - Zara has been a 4-H project for two years and she enjoys the limelight. This is another Sparrows Fargo 811U that is deep bodied and has a beautiful udder development.

*For more information or a sale catalogue, contact Keith Black*

Look for our advertisement in the spring for the 3rd Annual Benchmark Bull Sale, March 2014, with 25-30 Charolais yearling bulls.

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Agribition in Regina, Saskatchewan in November to represent P.E.I. 4-H in the 2013 Canadian National 4-H and Youth Judging Competition. On August 19 thru 25, Bennett along with his sister, Ellen Crane, and fellow 4-Her, Patti Douglas (Morell and Area 4-H Club), attended the Global 4-H World Youth Ag-Summit in Calgary, Alberta.

### Improved vibriosis test

A research project supported by the National Check-off and Canada's Beef Science Cluster (that includes Nappan and Dalhousie Faculty of Medicine) has come upon a potentially cost-effective and practical diagnostic testing strategy to identify beef cattle with vibriosis, a common cause of reproductive failure. The polymerase chain reaction test is said to be 85 percent accurate at identifying positive and negative bulls in the field.

### Numbers leveling off?

Statistics Canada has confirmed Canadian beef figures are showing signs of

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slow improvement as of July 1, 2013. The number of cattle on farms has increased for the first time since 2005; 0.1 percent since July 2005. Although numbers of cattle on farms are up, slaughter numbers are down by about 9.5 percent in the first half of 2013. Meanwhile, the number of heifers being retained for breeding this year is up one percent over 2012. Cattle exports were up 41.5 percent. However, that is 36 percent less than the peak of 2008.

### New import levy

Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Gerry Ritz and Canada Beef Inc. recently announced a new import levy of \$1 per head on cattle. The levy can be applied to purchasers of domestic and imported cattle as well as imported beef, which means Canada will be on equal ground with the U.S. for the first time since 1985. The import levy is worth about \$600,000 to \$800,000 annually, depending on market conditions. Funds collected will support Canada Beef Inc.'s marketing initiatives and projects under the direction of the Beef Cattle Research Council.

### CFIA to blame, says XL


In the continuing fallout from the *E. coli* beef recall at XL Foods last fall, XL has filed court documents alleging the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) should be held at least partly responsible for the outbreak, which sickened 18 people. The company claims CFIA is responsible for financial costs associated with a \$10 million class-action lawsuit in the wake of the outbreak because it was operating under standards permitted by the agency. 🐮

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# Chops: N'ewes, views, and updates

## Scholarship awarded

Congratulations to Suffolk owner Janessa Henry of Upper Musquodoboit, N.S., winner of a \$2,500 4-H agricultural scholarship from TD Bank Group, one of only a dozen across the country. She's newly enrolled in the Dal Faculty of Science program with an eye on a career in veterinary medicine.

## Code of Practice available

The Canadian Sheep Federation (CSF) and the National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC) recently announced completion of a draft *Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Sheep*. The draft code can be viewed by clicking the Sheep Code of Practice link at [AtlanticFarmer.com](http://AtlanticFarmer.com). The official Code is to be released in December.

## CSF gets new director

Corlena Patterson is the new executive director of the Canadian Sheep




Federation (CSF). Her appointment was announced in June. "We are confident that the skills Corlena brings to this assignment will be an asset to the organization and will help the Canadian Sheep Federation work as an advocate for sheep producers, creating conditions for the success of the industry," said Andrew Gordanier, CSF Chair.

## National co-op sets new tone

The Canadian Lamb Producers Co-operative (CLPS) based in Saskatoon, Sask., is allowed to sell memberships and investment shares to lamb produc-

ers anywhere in Canada – without the need to complete a prospectus for each province of operations as previously required for all agricultural co-ops – following a precedent-setting decision by federal regulators in May of this year.

The CLPS will have a regional office in Guelph, Ontario, from which it plans to market lamb products from its members and build the national and international lamb brand. 



## Jazz's Pride 23Y



**A**fter many years in the Shorthorn business I was on a mission to find the correct genetics to allow my females to produce the best males, showsteers (if that is your thing) and of course, more females! I finally made "the call", contacting Jungles Shorthorns, an outfit that sells 75 shorthorn bulls each year. **Jazz's Pride 23Y** is a son of **Jake's Proud Jazz**, who is the 3rd or 4th popular shorthorn bull through AI in the US. Although he is horned, I have 14 calves to date, 8 polled and 6 horned. Their average birth weight is 85 pounds and all unassisted.

*"Another top son of Jazz, out of one of the top female lines in the breed, AND he has the numbers to prove it!"*

— Shorthorn Country Magazine.

*"If had been polled he might have topped the Durhams for Denver Sale or been retained by Jungles Shorthorns for use at home."*

— Shorthorn Country Magazine.



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# Shorthorns short-changed?

Barb McLaughlin writes, regarding Residual Feed Intake (RFI) numbers from this year's Nappan Breeding Stock Sale: "I found an error in one of my formulas (from the Summer *Atlantic Beef*). I reported that Shorthorn



(AB/S photo)

Bulls	Breed	RFI w BF
15	ANGUS	0.39
23	CHAROLAIS	-0.11
1	GELBVIEH	1.76
9	HEREFORD	-0.61
14	LIMOUSIN	-0.38
3	RED ANGUS	0.15
5	SALERS	-1.82
5	SHORTHORN	0.25
33	SIMMENTAL	0.38
108	Tot/Avg	0.00

had an average RFI of 1.2, when it should have been .2. So, no, they didn't have the highest number for all breeds on test with five or more entries as I reported. I would think it safe to say the Angus and the Simmental tied for 'poorest' rounded to .4 (for the breeds with five or more on test)."

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**October 2:** Feeder Sale

**October 16:** Stock Cow Sale

**October 30:** Vaccinated & Feeder Sale

**November 13:** Feeder Sale

**November 27:** Regular Sale

**December 11:** Feeder Sale

*Auctioneer: Steve Liptay*

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# A good time to grow

by Sean Firth

A very strong fall feeder market appears to be on the way – cull cows continue to trade at near record prices. With grain priced into feed rations \$100-\$150/t cheaper than last year, feedlots will bid some of that cheaper grain into feeders.

Light summer numbers of locally traded feeders make for difficult current price reporting. However, Atlantic Canada trades, at Ontario less transport, give us a good idea of where we will trade this fall. Current prices in Central Canada indicate that top-quality, vaccinated, 500 to 700 pound steers will trade in the \$1.40-\$1.55/lb range this month (September). This will make for another profitable year for cow-calf producers – the third in a row. Good feeder prices coupled with near-record cull cow prices should encourage producers to expand – are they?

### NUMBERS ARE IN

Statistics Canada released its July 1 estimates for cattle numbers in Canada, and by province. We can see in Table 1 that the three Maritime provinces have been on a continuing decline in terms of beef cow numbers since 2009.

**Table 1:**  
**July Beef Cow and Beef Heifers Retained for Breeding 2009-2013**

1,000-Head Beef Cows (Beef Heifers Retained for Breeding)			
	2013	2011	2009
Nova Scotia	17.5 (2.4)	19.2 (2.9)	20.0 (3.0)
New Brunswick	15.3 (1.8)	20.0 (2.6)	20.7 (2.9)
Prince Edward Island	10.0 (1.1)	10.6 (2.6)	11.0 (1.4)
Canada	3939 (674)	4202 (662)	4513 (638)

Keep in mind that cattle prices swung to profitability locally in November 2010. While this trend is reflected nationally (the Canadian herd has also been declining from its BSE-induced high of 5.3 million beef cows in 2005) we should be seeing increasing beef heifer retention for breeding. The numbers in parentheses are July 1 estimates for beef heifers retained for breeding. This number reflects intentions by producers to rebuild and expand their herds. In good times – like we are in now – this number should be increasing. It is not. This is also the opposite trend nationally where modest increases in the number of heifers retained are evident. We need to be aware that this is happening and be aware that, given where we are currently in the beef cycle, our industry needs to be in an expansion phase. The ongoing decline can be explained in



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part by the very high values of cull cows and the resulting willingness of producers to trade off expansion for additional income generation. This is all well and good as long as we do not cull our way to oblivion. Policy makers should be aware that despite programs to encourage producers to retain heifers we are not seeing increasing cow numbers or direct increases in retained heifers.

### CLIMBING BACK

In discussions with producers there is optimism to begin reinvestment in herds and inputs related to growth – fertilizer, lime, reseeding of forage land, and cows. I would simply like to point out the following: prices have been, currently are, and will be for the foreseeable future, strong and indicative of declining national inventories and decent demand. Producers can be comforted by this fact and be secure in the knowledge that prices justify reinvestment and growth.

Feedlots are in good shape in terms of returns for cattle shipped now (October local breakeven is \$1.85/lb rail) and for cattle placed now for marketing in the new year (January breakeven is \$1.84/lb rail). Current futures for January are well above this, with winter contracts in central Canada at more than \$2. We are in good times, and at the risk of jinxing myself, I believe these are good times to grow. I am very optimistic about the future of our industry. Enjoy a good fall.

(Sean Firth is the owner/manager of Atlantic Stockyards Ltd. in Truro, N.S.)

### BREAKEVEN ANALYSIS

September 2013 - January 2014

Delivered Barley	\$3.60/bu.
Grass Silage	\$45.78/t
Yearling Steer	\$125.00/cwt
Cost of Gain (Feed)	\$53.33/cwt
Cost of Gain (All Costs)	\$85.44/cwt
A1/A2 Steers Atlantic	\$121.00/cwt
Breakeven Jan. 2014	\$112.55/cwt (\$1.84/lb rail)



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# Juniors' time to shine

## Truro hosts annual Angus event

by Betty Lou Scott

The 2013 Maritime Angus Junior Show and Field Day was hosted by the Nova Scotia Angus Association at the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition Grounds (NSPEG) in Truro, N.S., June 14-15. With the Canadian Angus Annual Convention held in Guelph, Ontario on June 5-10, 2013, the western "officials" for the Maritime event arrived in Nova Scotia June 12.

On Thursday, June 14, officials toured Angus farms in the area, and on Friday, Sandy Scott, Carl Williams, and Bill Scott provided the western visitors with a tour of the north side of the Minas Basin and the Parrsboro area, including the Arlene Collins Art Gallery and That Dutchman's Farm cheese operation.

Friday evening, the annual opening night social and fun auction were held at the Holiday Inn Convention Centre in Truro, N.S. Geoff Larkin, N.S. president, Trevor Welch, Maritime president, Kevin Blair, Canadian president from Lanigan, Saskatchewan, and Rob Smith, Olds, Alberta, CEO of the Canadian Angus Association (CAA), all brought greetings from their respective positions.

### INDUCTIONS AND AWARDS

The Honorable John MacDonnell brought greetings and presented Stacey



All the juniors sporting their Junior Show T-shirts with the new Canadian Angus logo at the 2013 Maritime Angus Junior Show and Field Day.

Domolewski, Canadian Junior Angus Association ambassador, Smith, and Blair with their certificates of membership into the "Order of Good Times," the oldest social club in North America. Blair presented the CAA pen to the Honorary President of the Maritime Association for 2013. Harold Nielsen was named to this position, but he was visiting a new grandchild in Hawaii, so his son Ben Nielsen accepted the pen on his behalf.

The presentation of a 50-year Heritage Award to the Nielsen family of Foundation Stock Farm in Brookfield was a very special part of the evening. Dorothy Nielsen, matriarch of the Foundation Stock Farm and widow of the founder of the operation, Boerge Nielsen, and her grandson Ben accepted this award,

joining the other 131 Canadian recipients to earn this award by registering Angus cattle for 50 consecutive years.

Following the formalities, Scott Dixon auctioned off various items generously donated to the N.S. Association. Proceeds for this auction are used to cover the cost of hosting the event and to pay out an award to all participating Junior Angus members.

### JUDGMENT TIME

Saturday morning all action moved to the NSPEG in Bible Hill. During the morning the Maritime Junior Angus Association held its annual meeting, as is its tradition. This year members enjoyed a presentation by Stacey Domolewski of Taber, Alberta. She has been an active member of the Canadian Junior Angus Association for several years and for the past year has been the Canadian Junior Angus Association ambassador, traveling throughout Canada.

Following lunch the showing and judging of Angus heifers took place in the MacMillan Show Centre. The 2013 recipients of the Maritime Association Commercial Breeder Award



Grand Champion Heifer of the Maritime Junior Angus Show held on June 15, 2013, in Truro, N.S. At the halter of Bar-H Hope 2Z is Sarah Manthorne of Amherst, N.S. receiving the Dick Turner Award, the perpetual trophy presented to the Champion Heifer of the show. Kevin Blair, President of the CAA and judge for the event, is shown holding the trophy.

were announced. Unfortunately, the winners, Tom and Angela O'Neill of Mountain View Farm in Digby, were unable to attend.

The official judge for the day, Kevin Blair, CAA president, judged the 19 purebred Angus heifers and five Angus-cross heifers. Sarah Manthorne, Amherst, showed the Champion Heifer of the day, and was the recipient of the perpetual Dick Turner Award and the keeper plaque, donated by Don Currie of Glen Islay Farm in Ontario.

Justin Ford of Wheatley River, P.E.I., showed the Reserve Champion purebred and received the Maritime Angus plaque for his showing. The Champion Crossbred Female was shown by Logan Ford of Wheatley River, P.E.I., and the Reserve Champion was shown by Patrick Holland of Montague, P.E.I. Domolewski was ring man for Blair in his judging job.

Blair and Domolewski shared judging responsibilities for the showmanship competition. Abby Falconer



**Abby Falconer of Toney River, N.S., was the only peewee entrant.**  
(Crystal Eisnor Barbrick photos)


of Toney River, N.S., was the only peewee entrant. She did an excellent job of showing her 4-H calf, Cricket.

Five junior members competed in their age group and Melanie DeLong of Kingston, N.S. and Logan Ford of

Wheatley River, P.E.I. captured the eyes of the judges for first and second place respectively in this category. Eight intermediate members made up this class. Ben Bacon of Amherst, N.S., triumphed as Champion, and Wes Hunter of Connell, New Brunswick, earned the Reserve spot.

In the senior age category six members showed their animals. Rebecca Gilby of Belnan, N.S., and Patrick Holland, of Montague, P.E.I., came out as Champion and Reserve respectively.

Even the weather man was on board for the event, and everyone enjoyed the warm sunshine at the Truro site. The Nova Scotia Association enjoyed hosting the event, and was appreciative of the help of many members and friends, as well as the generous donors who helped finance the whole weekend. In 2014 this annual event moves to New Brunswick.

For a full list of placings, visit the Maritime Angus Jr. show placing link at [AtlanticFarmer.com](http://AtlanticFarmer.com). 

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# Strategic Planning for Scrapie Eradication

Over the past few years, small ruminant organisations have been working with industry, government and producers on the issue of scrapie eradication. Increasing concern over animal health and food safety has created the need for improved and sustainable disease risk mitigation. Outbreak of disease results in economic losses for producers, concern over animal welfare and well-being, increased risk to both domestic and wild animal populations and poses risk to individuals, populations and society. Increasing awareness of direct and indirect links between animal health and human health exists in light of the appreciation of emerging and re-emerging diseases.

Scrapie is a devastating neuro-degenerative disease that affects both sheep and goats, and a disease that is difficult to control given the nature of its incubation period, mode of transmission and duration of infection. An animal can become infected with scrapie at any point in its life, and there is no way to tell definitively where a positive animal became infected. More importantly, once an animal becomes infected, it can shed and share that disease with other animals without showing any clinical signs of the scrapie. Since 1984, 200 Canadian farms have been identified as scrapie source or infected farms. Disease control actions on each of these farms have seen anywhere from 1 animal to 20% of the population destroyed because of scrapie.

## ***National scrapie eradication measures protect the national sheep flock and goat herd***

In the small ruminant industry's continued support of scrapie eradication, a 25 member steering committee made up of producers, industry groups, academia and government agencies has been created and tasked with the development of a strategic scrapie eradication plan. The steering committee has had the opportunity to convene a number of times over the past 4 months and will continue to do so throughout the course of the project's final year.



The steering committee's objective is to craft a scrapie eradication plan, designed by industry for industry, that ensures continued viability of the Canadian sheep and goat industries taking into consideration sustainability, profitability and market access. This plan will comprehensively include both the science and staging required to unfold a national eradication strategy that is flexible enough to respond to changes in circumstances and political considerations as they arise.

Stakeholder consultation and feedback are essential to the success of the National Scrapie Eradication Plan, and anyone interested in contributing to the building of this national strategy is encouraged to visit the dedicated web page at: <http://www.scrapiecanada.ca/eradication.html>.

For more information about scrapie or the National TSE Eradication Plan, visit [www.scrapiecanada.ca](http://www.scrapiecanada.ca) or contact Scrapie Canada at 866-534-1302.

*Funding for the National TSE Eradication Plan is provided through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Agricultural Flexibility Fund, as part of Canada's Economic Action Plan. Opinions expressed in this document are those of the Canadian Sheep Federation and not necessarily those of AAFC.*





# Where's the Beef?

## A Calendar of Cattle Events

**Sept. 17:** Cape John Pasture Field Day at the community pasture, Cape John, N.S., 9:30 am to 3:30 pm. Speakers include Morgan Hartman, Black Queen Angus Farm, Berlin, N.Y., and Dr. E. Ann Clark, Ontario. Contact Gail at 877-710-5210 or visit [www.perennia.ca](http://www.perennia.ca).

**Sept. 19, 20:** Canada Beef Inc. Annual Forum 2013, Sheraton Cavalier, Calgary, Alta. For details, visit [www.canadabeef.ca/producer](http://www.canadabeef.ca/producer).

**Sept. 21:** Fall Equipment Auction Sale, Atlantic Stockyards Limited, Murrays Siding, Truro, N.S. 10 am start. Contact 902-893-9603 or email [sfirth@atlanticstockyards.com](mailto:sfirth@atlanticstockyards.com).

**Sept. 21:** AGM for the Maritime Limousin Association, N.B. Beef Expo in Sussex. Contact 506-433-5245 or visit [www.maritimelimosin.com](http://www.maritimelimosin.com).

**Sept. 21, 22:** New Brunswick Beef Expo, Princess Louise Park in Sussex, N.B. Sept. 21, Angus Gold Show. Contact 902-925-2057, 506-856-2277, or visit [www.plpshowcentre.com](http://www.plpshowcentre.com).

**Sept. 27-29:** The 36th Nova Scotia Provincial 4-H Show, celebrating 100 years of 4-H in Canada, South Shore Exhibition grounds, Bridgewater, N.S. Contact Angie Garnett at 902-634-7575.

**Sept. 28:** Blackburn Farm Uppin' the Ante Sale, Maple Hill Auction, Hanover, Ont. Contact 613-646-2673.

**Oct. 2:** Sussex and Studholm Agricultural Society Feeder Sale, Co-op livestock barn, Sussex, N.B. Sale starts at 11:30 am. Contact 506-432-1841.

**Oct. 5:** Eastern Extravaganza hosted by Curraghdale Cattle Co., Uxbridge, Ont. Contact 306-784-2241 or visit [www.castlerockmarketing.com](http://www.castlerockmarketing.com).

**Oct. 5:** Bar 5 Farms Extravaganza Sale, Markdale, Ont. Contact 519-986-1330, [bar5admin@xplornet.com](mailto:bar5admin@xplornet.com), or visit [www.bar5.com](http://www.bar5.com).

**Oct. 11-13:** Quebec Salers Association will host the 2013 National Show and Sale, Victoriaville, QC. Contact 819-470-8844, [quebecsalers@hotmail.com](mailto:quebecsalers@hotmail.com), or visit [www.salersquebec.com](http://www.salersquebec.com).

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For more information on the Annual Forum, visit  
[www.canadabeef.ca/producer](http://www.canadabeef.ca/producer)

**Oct. 16:** Sussex and Studholm Agricultural Society Stock Cow Sale, Co-op livestock barn, Sussex, N.B. Sale starts at 11:30 am. Contact 506-432-1841.

**Oct. 19:** Fall Feeder Sale, Atlantic Stockyards Limited, Murrays Siding, Truro, N.S., 10 am start. Contact 902-893-9603 or email [sfirth@atlanticstockyards.com](mailto:sfirth@atlanticstockyards.com).

**Oct. 19:** 13th annual Cream of the Crop Sale, Hoards Station sales barn, Campbellford, Ont. Contact 613-731-7110, or visit [www.ontarioblondes.com](http://www.ontarioblondes.com).

**Oct. 19:** Pasture Day at the Nappan Experimental Farm, registration 9:30 am. Les Halliday on new "smart" forage harvester trials. Updates on forage trials and Beef Science Cluster work at Nappan.

**Oct. 13:** Angus Gold Show, Maritime Fall Fair, Halifax, N.S. Contact 902-925-2057, or visit [maritimeangus.blogspot.ca](http://maritimeangus.blogspot.ca).

**Oct. 26:** 6th annual British Breed Sale, Angus in Action Sale, Autumn Classic, and Atlantic Bonus Sale at the Nappan Bull

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**Oct. 26:** New Brunswick Sheep Breeders' Association "Strategies for Hard Times" workshop. Holiday Inn Express, Mountain Rd. Moncton, N.B. Contact 506-856-2277 or Duncan.fraser@gnb.ca.

**Oct. 30:** Sussex and Studholm Agricultural Society Vaccinated and Feeder Sale, Co-op livestock barn, Sussex, N.B. Sale starts at 11:30. Contact 506-432-1841.

**Nov. 13:** Sussex and Studholm Agricultural Society Feeder Sale, Co-op livestock barn, Sussex, N.B. Sale starts at 11:30 am. Contact 506-432-1841.

**Nov. 13-16:** Class of '13 online auction presented by Blairs.Ag Cattle Co. Visit [www.cattleinmotion.com](http://www.cattleinmotion.com) to bid and buy.

**Nov. 16:** Fall Feeder Sale, Atlantic Stockyards Limited, Murrays Siding, Truro, N.S. 10 am start. Contact 902-893-9603 or email [sfirth@atlanticstockyards.com](mailto:sfirth@atlanticstockyards.com).

**Nov. 16:** Maritime Beef Test Station AGM, Nappan Experimental Farm Pavilion. Contact 902-661-2855.

**Nov. 27:** Sussex and Studholm Agricultural Society Regular Sale, Co-op livestock barn, Sussex, N.B. Sale starts at 11:30. Contact 506-432-1841.

**Nov. 30:** Colours of Autumn Sale, Windy Gables Limousin farm, Warkworth, Ont. Contact 705-924-2583 or [brycea@alleninsurance.ca](mailto:brycea@alleninsurance.ca).

**Dec. 1:** Maritime Angus Association AGM, Amherst, N.S. Contact 902-925-2057 or visit [maritimeangus.blogspot.ca](http://maritimeangus.blogspot.ca).

**Dec. 7:** Fall Feeder Sale, Atlantic Stockyards Limited, Murrays Siding, Truro, N.S., 10 am start. Contact 902-893-9603 or email [sfirth@atlanticstockyards.com](mailto:sfirth@atlanticstockyards.com).

**Dec. 11:** Sussex and Studholm Agricultural Society Feeder Sale, Co-op livestock barn, Sussex, N.B. Sale starts at 11:30 am. Contact 506-432-1841.

**"Where's the Beef" is a free service to advertisers, subscribers, and non-profit groups. Commercial rate \$23, max. 20 wds. Send notices to Atlantic Beef, Box 1509 Liverpool, NS B0T 1K0. Include event name, date, location, and contact information. Turn to AtlanticFarmer.com, "Events & News," for a regularly updated list.**



# All eyes on fall harvest

by Les Halliday

Fall harvest has been progressing very well, with above average yields of barley in most areas of the province. High grain prices in 2012 caused a certain amount of chaos in the marketplace, and cattle feeders were faced with tough challenges to economically feed high-priced feeders, especially with a limited supply of cull potatoes. On a positive note, everyone was anticipating an increase in the finished price for spring and summer, which would result in positive margins on their cattle. However, nothing is ever simple in the beef business. Rumors were rife that barley would shoot to \$300/tonne, which would have been disastrous for anyone feeding cattle or hogs. Feedlots were understandably cautious and some decided to reduce grain-feeding rates and rely more heavily on corn silage to generate daily gain.

In the spring, a huge influx of low-cost cull potatoes provided much-needed relief and feeding margins improved. This seemed to spur an interest from livestock producers to grow more barley rather than purchase from the elevator or local grain farmers. The net result was more barley acres planted and, when coupled with significant carryover tonnage and an anticipated bumper corn yield in North America, the price has tumbled significantly. Old crop barley is now trading between \$140 and \$150/tonne, which is providing a significant improvement in feeding margins. The finished price has held steady around \$2/pound on the rail, and feedlot owners are cautiously optimistic. However, they are watching the markets closely as lower feed costs usually result in higher feeder prices. All sectors of the industry are waiting to see what happens at the first feeder sale of the fall season on Sept. 14.

## PASTURE PERFORMANCE

Most pasture fields have performed well during the summer and cattle appear to be in very good condition going into winter. In the spring there was concern forage supplies were extremely

short and a number of producers had run out of silage. Forage land was also in short supply due to an increase in acres of corn, grain, and soybeans. However, with early spring heat and moisture, forage yield was above normal and timely dry spells allowed for a relatively quick harvest. The downside on forage was the severe winter kill of clover, with some producers indicating complete kill in unsheltered fields. I visited a number of farms during silage harvest and the legume content going into the bale or bunker was significantly lower than expected. Protein content will be a major issue going into the winter and forage analysis is a “must do” to ensure rations are properly balanced and cattle perform to their potential.

Other crops are looking exceptionally well, with soybeans growing under good sunshine and high heat units. The corn crop also looks exceptional, espe-

cially on fields with good fertility. We just need the weather to cooperate during harvest.

The Old Home Week beef shows were some of the strongest in recent years with Angus breeders showing 59 animals. With Shorthorn, Simmental, Hereford, and commercial cattle in the mix, a total of 166 entries from the Maritimes presented quality cattle to judge Rick Johnston of Maidstone, Saskatchewan. Exhibitors were optimistic, as there was good demand for breeding stock in the region.



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beef circles but also in the food service and retail sectors. The official Island launch was held at the Culinary Institute in July, and the program is a joint initiative of the P.E.I. Culinary Alliance, the P.E.I. Cattle Producers, and the Atlantic Beef Products plant. The Culinary Alliance is working with farmers and distributors to market the branded product and will return a guaranteed premium, which will be shared along the production chain from the cow-calf producer, feedlot, and processor. Specifications for the brand are available by clicking the P.E.I. Certified Beef link at AtlanticFarmer.com. In summary, cattle for the brand must be born and raised on P.E.I., be age-verified, not be given hormone implants, not be administered antibiotics 100 days prior to slaughter, and meet grade and weight specifications. Producers must sign a licensing agreement, maintain a valid environmental farm plan, and attend a humane animal handling workshop. For those interested in participating in the

brand program call Rinnie Bradley at 902-368-2229, or me at 902-314-0827.

### ROUND TWO OF GROWSAFE


The bull test station will soon be accepting entries for their second test year using the GrowSafe feed efficiency system. This system has generated a great deal of interest from all facets of industry. Purebred breeders can use the information as a marketing tool for feed-efficient bulls; commercial producers who use feed-efficient bulls can market calves to feedlots interested in feed-efficient feeders. In addition, researchers are interested in the genomics of feed efficiency and identifying more accurate genetic markers, which could be used as a selection tool for purebred breeders.

In an effort to encourage full testing at the Nappan facility, assistance (\$250 per bull) is available through the Agriculture Livestock Enhancement Program.

The new beef programming through

Growing Forward 2 is now available as a component of the Agriculture Livestock Enhancement Program and will be administered by the P.E.I. Cattle Producers. Components of the program will provide incentives to produce high-quality beef, which is required for branded beef products, and will focus on Genetic Innovations (premium sires, purebred heifers, purebred testing); Herd Health (vaccinations, parasite control); and Feed Efficiency (pasture soil testing, feed testing, age verification, vitamin E, and trace mineral supplements). Program guidelines and applications, as well as information on testing at the Nappan facility, are available through the Agriculture Livestock Enhancement Program link at AtlanticFarmer.com.

Hoping for a great fall harvest.

(Les Halliday is a beef development officer with the P.E.I. Department of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Aquaculture, in Charlottetown, P.E.I.) 



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## Atlantic Beef

### Affiliates

For information on becoming a member of any of these groups contact **the club** at the address shown:

- ❑ **South Shore Cattlemen's Association**  
 Contact: Boyd Crouse, Sec/Treas.  
 RR 3 Lunenburg, NS B0J 2C0  
 902-634-3468
- ❑ **PEI Hereford Breeders Club**  
 Contact: Amanda Proud  
 RR 2 Cornwall, PE C0A 1H0  
 902-675-5431
- ❑ **Maritime Aberdeen-Angus Association**  
 Contact: Betty Lou Scott  
 RR 1 Salt Springs, NS B0K 1P0  
 902-925-2057
- ❑ **Maritime Salers Association**  
 Contact: Steve Parrish  
 RR 1 Waterville, Kings County, NS B0P 1V0  
 902-538-1267

For information on how **your group** can become an AB affiliate association, write to:  
Affiliates, Atlantic Beef  
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(Salers Beef)

**October 12:** 12:30 pm - Salers Show.  
5:00 pm - Cattleman's Choice Bull Calf Results.

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# Three decades on

## A look at the way things were, and are, at Nappan

by **Brian Trueman**

As my time at Nappan is rapidly nearing an end, from time to time I reflect back on how many things have changed in the past 30 years. A lot of things come to mind. Some of them are positive, and, unfortunately, some are not. With the most recent round of federal cuts Nappan now has the only fully functioning beef research herd east of Lacombe, Alberta. That's scary, but at the same time it could be viewed as a tremendous opportunity for potential beef research right here in the Maritimes. That is, of course, if everyone could pull in the same direction. Whether there is a future for Nappan and the research beef herd will depend heavily on this condition. If all parties – governments, industry players, provinces, producer associations, etc. – don't pull together, Nappan will surely be next on the chopping block.

One of the main tasks on my job description has been to develop the genetics in the herd to produce a uniform group of animals suitable for use in diverse research trials. In recent years this work has included grazing trials, feed efficiency work, analyzing the effects of various feed ingredients to increase Omega 3 (the good fatty acid), and assessing various practises. All have been aimed at the production of high-quality beef at the least cost.

### WEALTH OF INFO

As one of my final tasks, John Duynisveld asked me to generate an extended pedigree-production profile on every cow we have in the herd. When I completed this job, a number of things struck me as significant. I doubt there is a research herd anywhere else in Canada with the depth of information we have right here, right now, in Nappan. For



**Nappan's Farm Supervisor Brian Trueman, soon to retire after 30 years with Agriculture Canada, is demonstrating condition and frame scoring in this photo taken in 1999 at one of the Experimental Farm's popular field days. (AB/S photo)**

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many of the cows I can go back as far as six or seven generations, and we know the exact genetic makeup of the three breeds we are presently using. We have full data on calf production, weaning weights, body condition scores, and until the recent calving season change two years ago, a number of years of actual milk production complete with analysis on quality as well as quantity.

Over the years we have explored in many directions, and have a wealth of information that could be used if only we had the researchers and the budget to do the work that still needs to be done. Over the past 13 years we have seen huge improvements in the herd.

We have stayed with a three-breed British crossbreeding program and have had 1,109 calves born from 1,092 calvings. We've lost 79 calves over this 13-year span. I guess you can't save them all, but we still have a 95.4 calving percentage and have weaned 94.5 percent of these calves. Our weaning weights have increased between 2000 and 2005 as a result of plan-mating each cow, and we have watched them level off to achieve an average wean weight of 643 lbs over the 13 years. Our high was in 2009 with 660 lbs, and our low was in the dry summer of 2012 when conditions pulled the average down to 592 lbs. We should note this was with no creep feeding – all milk and grass grew out these calves.

The change in calving season from traditional January-February calving months to April-May in the past two years has made it a little more difficult to compare weights, and I have found I lean towards weight-per-day-of-age (WDA) as a more meaningful number to compare calf performance.

For example, our WDA on all calves climbed to 2.43 lbs in 2010. It dipped to 2.38 lbs in 2011 and then rose to 2.79 lbs in 2012.

(Brian Trueman has been around the cattle industry for many years with the Maritime Beef Test Station and is nearing the end of a career working with beef herd research at AAFC's Nappan Experimental Farm. He and his family operate Thunderbrook Farms.) 



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# Doing it tough

## The hard realities and silver linings for Atlantic lamb

Fellow sheep producers, I shall have a go at polishing my crystal ball and predicting the future of the lamb trade here in Atlantic Canada. Last time I wrote, I explained that there are global issues at play here, as well as local issues. Much to my chagrin, not much has changed.

There is a move afoot to try to manage the volatility of lamb prices in the global marketplace. Some of the biggest movers and shakers in the industry will meet in Brussels for a Global Sheepmeat Forum to address the issue. It will be interesting to see if New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and France can come up with a solution that works. There is nothing these groups can do to prevent severe weather problems that can devastate a year's production, but perhaps they could control, to some degree, the swing in exchange rates and help the supply chain manage profitability and enable farmers to receive a reasonable return.

### BREAKING THE CHAIN

Here in Canada, we have the Sheep Value Chain Roundtable, which is sup-



**Auctioneer Laurie Parker encourages bidding on Nova Scotia Agriculture Minister John MacDonell's Suffolk ewe at the 33rd Atlantic Sheep Sale held August 31 in Truro. Laughter erupted as Parker urged buyers to realize MacDonell's pressing needs, what with an anticipated election call. (AB/S photo)**

posed to be doing the same thing. It is great to have a meeting place for those in the value chain. The problem is the only people who attend the meetings are sheep producers and government representatives, and one abattoir from the west. We are not reaching the rest of the value chain; we can't get Sobeys, Loblaws, or major abattoirs to attend. Not that they aren't invited; they are. We believe they are absent because lamb has the reputation of being a high-cost product with low returns, and it holds a small slice of the shelf space in the retail world. We are viewed as minor suppliers and therefore not worth the time of these major players to discuss where we need to go and what needs to be done so we can all make a profit.

### PRICES NOT ENCOURAGING

Lambs are now coming in off grass in Atlantic Canada and prices are mediocre to say the least. Good lambs are making decent money, if you have aligned yourself with an abattoir and have a reputation of being a supplier of good slaughter lambs. If you have not managed to do that or have traditionally supplied the market with feeder lambs, prices don't look so hot for the immediate future. Sadly, there are fewer people willing to gamble and feed lambs unless they are completely sure of a good market for them. Costs incurred from purchasing the lambs, processing, accepting a certain amount of dead losses, and purchasing feed and medications can be considerable. So when all of these things are taken into account, the cost of the lamb, from the outset, has got to be fairly low. Not what primary producers want to hear, but it is a fact of life at the moment in the sheep industry. There is a market for well-finished lighter lambs that can be sent out of province, and these lambs are receiving a slightly higher price. Eighty-five pounds and lighter is the target to shoot for if you would like to sell lambs into this market. Feeder lambs in the same weight range will still sell, but at a reduced rate.

On the upside, though sad to report,




**The top-selling ram at the Atlantic Sheep Sale in Truro, N.S., on August 31, was bred and consigned by James and Cecile Blackie from Florenceville, N.B. The ram was purchased by North Brook Farm (Troy and Kim Hiltz and sons), Centreville, N.S., for \$1,225. Left to right are Jonah Hiltz, representing North Brook Farm, and James and Cecile Blackie. (Troy Hiltz photo)**

quite a few producers are leaving the industry because of poor returns. This means those who can ride out this year's depressed prices stand to gain in the long term, since, with fewer ewes to be bred, fewer lambs will be produced in the coming year. There could be shorter supply, and with demand still out there, perhaps a chance for slightly higher prices.

On another slightly more cheerful note, the market for lamb in China is growing exponentially, and even though we probably won't benefit from this directly, it does mean the major players, Australia, New Zealand, and Europe, will perhaps turn their attention to filling the Chinese market, meaning less lamb will be available to export into our markets. Let's hope they are successful, as it will mean we have a greater chance of winning back some of the customers that have moved from our fresh products to the frozen or chilled lamb from the other side of the globe!

As I have said before, keep an eye on your cost of production, find your niche in the market, and hang on for the ride. Perhaps there is a bit of an upswing on the horizon! Carry on and keep sheep farming!

(Cathy Vallis farms in Princeport, N.S. and is past-president of SPANS.) 



# Year three: more grass, more cattle

## Cape John Community Pasture fall update

by **Jonathan Wort**

Summer is quickly coming to an end and with it the pasture season. At the Cape John Community Pasture the Cape John Community Pasture Co-op, Nova Scotia Cattle Producers, Perennia, the Department of Agriculture, Agriculture Canada, and the Dalhousie University Faculty of Agriculture have cooperated to conduct a third year of the Pasture Project. This has all been made possible with funding from the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Marketing.

In previous years the grazing has been intensified by subdividing the pasture, into seven smaller blocks the first year and 13 the second. Last year the carrying capacity of the pasture increased from 120 head to 150 despite a dry season. People with rotational grazing experience have indicated to me that the pasture takes time to adjust to the management before any changes will be noted. Our experience at Cape John supports this. In 2011 we were a little disappointed with the results. The following year was very dry, and yet we were able to significantly increase the stocking density and still have sufficient grass for the cattle. This year (2013) we have been able to handle more cattle again. In the early part of the season there were more than 200 head on the pasture. Later, due to the

water system limitations, we reduced the number of cattle to 150 head. In the past month this number has been increased to close to 180 head.

### **PASTURE IMPROVEMENT**

Soil sampling in previous years has indicated declining potassium (P) levels on the pasture. In response, we fertilized several of the pasture blocks to bring P levels up. We have been collecting forage samples again this year for nutrient analysis, and are comparing the amount of forage produced between the fertilized and unfertilized plots. The response to the fertilization is visible as we walk through the pasture to collect samples.

Other activity this year included sod, or no-till, seeding of several plots with the no-till seeder. While rotational grazing will have an impact on the species composition of the pasture, there was interest in trying to significantly increase the legume content of the pasture and encourage some of the more productive grass species. With this in mind, early in the season we seeded several blocks with a mixture of Meadow fescue, Red clover, and White clover. Botanical samples are being collected to monitor the species composition of the seeded and unseeded pasture blocks to quantify the impact of the rotational grazing, no-till seeding, and fertilization.

Besides recording the number of grazing days that have been available on the pasture, the cattle have been weighed four times and ultrasounded twice with plans for an additional ultrasound and weighing later in the season. The cattle appear to be performing better than previous seasons. More information will be available as the season comes to an end.

A final report for 2013 will be available once the pasture season is over. Perennia would like to thank the pasture staff for their continued assistance with the project and their dedication to the pasture and the cattle they look after for the season. This year the team included Alden Knight, recently retired from the Nova Scotia Agricultural College, who joined the Cape John Project team on a part-time basis. He has been collecting the forage samples, helping with botanical analysis, and helping weigh the cattle. He also did the seeding in the spring.

(Jonathan Wort, Perennia livestock specialist, contact 902-896-0277.) 🐮

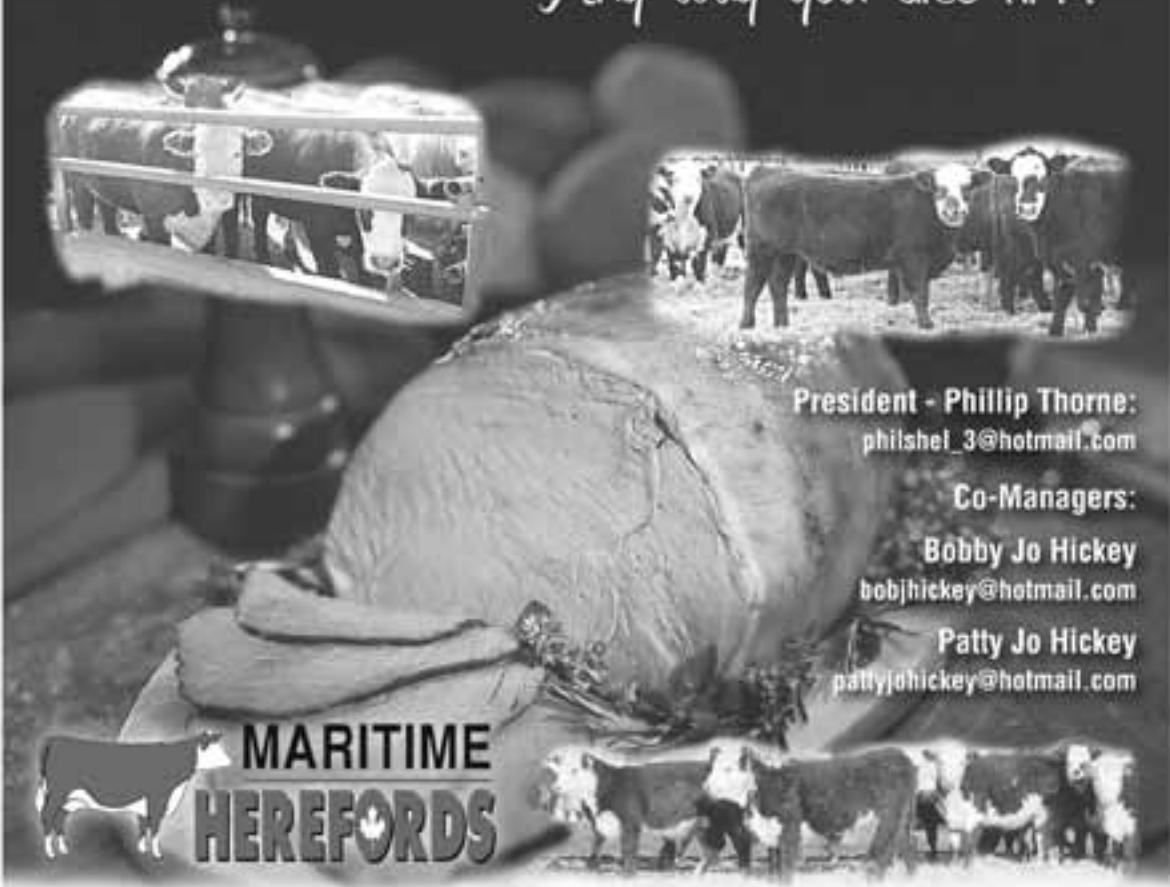
**More cattle on the Cape John, N.S., Community Pasture had more grass to graze this season as Nova Scotia Cattle Producers in cooperation with government and NGO agencies worked through the third year of a project aimed at learning more about intensive management for grass-fed beef. (Jonathan Wort photo)**



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# Playing host

## P.E.I. looks ahead to exciting national events

by Rinnie Bradley

Fall is a busy time for everyone. With harvest in full swing and winter just around the corner, the P.E.I. Cattle Producers (PEICP) is looking ahead to the next meeting season. We will soon be holding our fall district meetings and planning ahead to the AGM, and the Canadian Cattlemen's Association's (CCA) semi-annual meeting being held in P.E.I. next summer.

I was able to attend the CCA semi-annual meeting in London, Ontario in August, in the hope of gathering some first-hand experience to help the PEICP host the CCA semi-annual next August. We are excited to host this event, especially as it coincides with Prince Edward Island 2014. This year-long commemoration invites all of Canada to celebrate an important milestone in our history, as we mark the 150th Anniversary of the 1864 Charlottetown Conference, which paved the way to the Confederation of Canada. Many CCA directors have told us they are looking forward to coming to P.E.I. next summer and we hope to make it be a memorable experience for them.

### DEAD STOCK

Earlier this year, the province announced that its financial contribution to dead stock disposal was being reduced. While the province is committed to some level of funding, it has made it clear all producers will have to start paying for the service. The greatest challenge for the beef industry is to determine a fair and effective method of collecting fees for services. In the coming weeks the PEICP will be looking for a way to address these costs.

Industry and government formed a Dead Stock Committee to see if there was a more cost-effective means of disposing of dead livestock in P.E.I. In addition to the regulations that deal with Specified Risk Materials (SRM), P.E.I. has its own unique challenges. They include a high water table that discourages on-farm burial; urban sprawl



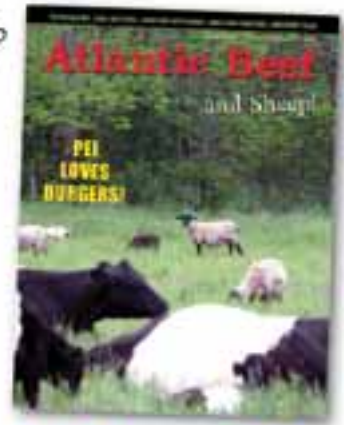
that discourages fence-line feeding for natural predators and composting; and expensive and limited access to incineration. The committee also looked at alkaline hydrolysis, which uses chemical compounds to dissolve the carcass. After examining all of the alternatives, the committee felt the one we have is the most effective. It meets environmental and SRM requirements and it assists the Canadian Food Inspections Agency in meeting its SRM testing requirements.

### BEEF PROGRAMS

The PEICP is now administering the Agriculture Livestock Enhancement Beef Programs that are part of Growing Forward 2. Many applications have already been received. There are certain requirements for all applications that must be completed before funding can be approved, including: registering with the PEICP; applying for a Premise ID if you haven't already received one; and taking a Verified Beef Production workshop (VBP). The registration and Premise ID applications can be found on the PEICP website. We offer on-farm workshops for VBP. This can be completed in a few hours. During this visit we also offer training for age verification. Age verifying adds value to the calves and can prevent penalties for feedlot owners. Third party age verification data entry is available to those who don't have access to a computer.

John MacDonald and Ivan Johnson will be representing the PEICP at the Canada Beef (CB) Annual Forum in September. We thank MacDonald for his continued representation on the CB board of directors.

(Rinnie Bradley is executive director of the P.E.I. Cattle Producers. She can be reached at 902-368-2229, or by email at cattlemen@eastlink.ca.)



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# N.B. Fall Regional meetings planned

by **Kim Waalderbos**

A busy agenda sets the stage for the 2013 round of fall regional meetings of the New Brunswick Cattle Producers (NBCP). NBCP board members and staff will hit the road beginning mid-October and travel to various meetings across the eight districts (see the accompanying schedule). Board chair Cedric MacLeod says the fall regionals are a great opportunity to have conversations with NBCP members across the province.

“We cover a lot of ground and meet so many producers,” says MacLeod. “It’s ideal because we can hear about the issues that are on producers’ minds, plus we can share the latest information on the many programs and events we’re developing.” Top items on this year’s agenda include discussion on a traceability project that will be part of a larger national strategy, clarifications on interprovincial cattle sales, and gauging interest in future producer workshops and seminars.

The fall regional meetings will also be an opportunity to unveil the details of the New Brunswick Spring Beef Conference planned for March 28 and 29, 2014, at the Crowne Plaza in Moncton, N.B. The conference will begin with a welcome event and speakers on Friday evening and continue all day Saturday.

MacLeod is enthusiastic about this year’s Spring Beef Conference lineup, which will take a more grassroots producer focus. He says the theme will be “Managing beef for increased production and profit,” and will have

speaker presentations that encompass a whole range of ways to become more productive and lower costs. Topics include profitable pastures, optimizing stored forages, new herd health recommendations, animal handling techniques, animal traceability, and much more. There will also be a trade show to browse between sessions.

At the fall regional meetings, Paul Breau, project manager for the NBCP Premium Marketing Initiative, will share the final findings of his information-gathering mission to understand the market options available to New Brunswick producers. Breau will share insights, including: sales barn options, dealer options, transportation fee ranges, insurance and liability coverage, typical deductions, and pricing ranges. Breau will also share what he has learned about the perception of New Brunswick’s cattle quality, and how New Brunswick cattle compare to the type of product buyers want.


MacLeod says the NBCP will be adopting an annual producer registration form. The goal is to have a better handle on who NBCP members are and what needs they have so resources can be better matched. The registration form will be straightforward and easy to fill out. There will be no cost to register as an NBCP member. “To date, it has been challenging to maintain a current NBCP member list without an annual registration process,” he

says. The producer registration topic will be part of fall regional meeting discussions.

MacLeod says the NBCP has also created a Beef Producer of the Year award to recognize outstanding producers who have contributed to the development of the industry.

The straightforward application form includes sections for describing why a nominee should receive the award, special innovations and farm practices, and contributions to industry development. For a nomination form, producers can call the NBCP office at 506-458-8534. Nominations are due by Jan. 31, 2014.

“We don’t pause often enough to recognize those unsung heroes in our industry,” says MacLeod. “We hope this award will showcase N.B. producers that are doing a superb job advancing their farms and our industry.”

(Contact the NBCP office at 506-458-8534 or [nbcattle@nb.aibn.com](mailto:nbcattle@nb.aibn.com).) 



## PROGRAM APPLICATION DEADLINES

### 2013 Beef Cattle Handling and Weighing Systems Initiative:

Application deadline is Sept. 30, 2013.  
Claim form deadline is Dec. 13, 2013.

Producers can receive financial assistance of 50 percent towards the purchase of animal handling facilities and/or weighing systems. The maximum assistance will be \$3,000 per farm.

### 2013 Beef Enhanced Herd Health and Quality Initiative:

Application deadline is Sept. 30, 2013.  
Claim form deadline is Jan. 10, 2014.

Producers are eligible for financial assistance up to maximum of \$32 per beef cow-calf pair for cost associated with implementing a comprehensive herd health program.

## 2013 FALL REGIONAL MEETING SCHEDULE

**District 7:** Charlotte/Sunbury/Queens/York – Wednesday, Oct 16, 7:30 pm at the Keswick Ridge Hall

**District 4:** Gloucester/Northumberland – Tuesday, Oct 22, 7:30 pm at the Bathurst Agriculture Office

**District 6:** Kent – Wednesday, Oct 23, 7:30 pm at the West Branch Hall

**District 3:** Madawaska/Restigouche – Tuesday, Oct 29, 7:30 pm at the St. Basile Church Hall

**District 1 and 2:** Carleton/Victoria – Wednesday, Oct 30, 7:30 pm at the Wicklow Agriculture Office

**District 5:** Westmorland/Albert – Tuesday, Nov 5, 7:30 pm at the Moncton Agriculture Office

**District 8:** Kings/Saint John – Wednesday, Nov 6, 7:30 pm at the Sussex Agriculture Office



## Update from a busy summer

by **Terry Prescott**

The board, as a rule, doesn't meet over the summer months unless a pressing issue comes to the forefront. If this occurs, it is dealt with as a one-off – by teleconference, if possible. I am pleased to report no such event has occurred thus far.

There are, however, some important updates from the summer. The board of office had to be temporarily relocated due to asbestos issues and reconstruction, but we are now back in our old location.

Canada Beef Inc. was successful in getting the import levy assessed on imported beef products coming into Canada, starting later this fall.

Recent surveys suggest consumer confidence remains high on beef produced and inspected within Canada.

The Nova Scotia Cattle Producers field day will take place Oct. 4 – all are encouraged and welcome to attend! Bus transportation will be provided, starting from Kentville, with stops in Windsor and

Truro. Other stops could be considered and possibly accommodated if we are informed far enough in advance and have sufficient numbers for each stop.

We will be visiting three operations: Joe Cooper, Balamore Farms, one of the largest feedlot/backgrounding operations east of Quebec; Stephen Lund's large commercial cow-calf operation; and Ian Tuttle, who also owns a large commercial cow-calf operation. All three operations will provide an overview of their operation, tour of their facilities, and their insight on our industry. A group lunch will be provided. I hope as many of you as possible can attend what should be a very informative day. Please make sure to contact the office if you plan on attending so the appropriate arrangements for transportation and lunch can be made in a timely fashion.

I am probably sounding like a broken record, but I foresee cattle prices remaining strong for a number of reasons: cattle

inventory is still very low across North America; demand for beef remains very strong globally; and possibly most importantly, grain prices appear poised to drop significantly. This should be important for cattle price futures. Feedlot owners were challenged these past couple years because they had to pay higher prices for grains and cattle without incurring huge losses. Many would say the retail price could and should rise to offset those cost increases, however, if beef prices were to increase much more, we would risk losing market share to pork, lamb, and poultry. These are all more efficient grain converters, especially when grain is in short supply and fetching a premium price.

Our challenge as producers is to make sure we get paid for our patient wait (10-plus years, but who is counting?) and hard efforts. To do this we need to: stay informed of current market prices through our websites, local weekly auction results, and trade magazines; know what our buyers want and do everything possible to supply what they want; and have accurate weight of cattle at time of sale.

If you sell through auction barns then this is a given – and likely your predominant reason for selling through auction markets. But if you are selling by private treaty directly off the farm, eyeballing or guessing the average weight potentially leaves many unpaid-for pounds on the table. Very seldom will a drover/buyer, whose livelihood is handling cattle daily, make an error in your favor. A good set of scales can pay for themselves very fast if you have been in the guessing game.

Many feedlot owners say they will pay a premium for proper dehorning, castration, weaning and up-to-date vaccinations. These help reduce their challenges and losses at the feedlots. Sean Firth has documented and shared with us all on many occasions his sale results on the extra paid overall for properly preconditioned cattle on any given sale.

(Terry Prescott is the chairman of the Nova Scotia Cattle Producers. He lives in Bass River, N.S.)

## Ready for round two



by **Ken Thompson**

Even though it feels like the Bull Sale was just last month, preparations are underway for our next testing season at Nappan. The summer has certainly flown by. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the buyers, consignors, and all who helped make the sale a success.

Our first year with the GrowSafe system measuring individual feed intake on the bulls went very well, with an amazing amount of data being collected. It was certainly an eye-opener to see not only the differences in residual feed intake (RFI) and intakes between breeds, but also within each breed. I was also pleased with how well the system itself worked and how quickly the bulls caught on to eating out of the bunks.

Application forms for the upcoming test will be arriving to producers in early

September, if you wish to receive one or have questions about the testing program please feel free to call 902-893-7455, or email [maritimebeef@eastlink.ca](mailto:maritimebeef@eastlink.ca). We will be receiving animals for test this year on Nov. 8, 9, and 10, and after the adjustment period the test will begin on Nov. 29.

Remember to mark your calendars for the Angus in Action/Atlantic Bonus Hereford/Autumn Classic Shorthorn Sale on Oct. 26 at the Test Station.

The Maritime Beef Test Station Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday Nov. 16, 2013, at the Nappan Experimental Farm Pavilion.

(Kenny Thompson is manager of the Maritime Beef Cattle Test Station. For more information, call the office at 902-661-2855.)



# 4-H Islanders flock to workshop

## Showmanship session teaches members how to clip sheep

On July 18, Prince Edward Island 4-H held an evening sheep-clipping and showmanship workshop for 4-H members.

George and Melany Matheson generously donated the use of their beautiful Springwater Farm in Albion Cross, P.E.I., as well as their animals.

Jane Palmer was on hand to teach the 4-H members the intricacies of how to clip a sheep for showing, and 4-H Specialist, Melody Aalders, taught the members about sheep showmanship. Members then had the opportunity to practice their newly acquired expertise on Springwater Farm sheep.

The clinic was generously funded by the Canadian Sheep Breeders' Association.



George Matheson observing as Jane Palmer demonstrates how to clip a sheep with full fleece. (Photos Courtesy of Jackie Harlow, PEI 4-H specialist, Western Region)



Jane Palmer directs 4-H member, Ila Matheson, on how to trim sheep hooves for showing.



4-H members Rae Matheson on the left and Karyss MacDonald on the right learning to clip sheep.



4-H member, Locke Donovan, practices his sheep-clipping skills under the guidance of Jane Palmer.



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December 6 and 13

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## More on the value of RFI

by John Duynisveld

I really enjoyed Barb McLaughlin's article on the Growsafe residual feed intake (RFI) data and its apparent effect on bull prices. One of the most obvious effects of measuring feed efficiency on the beef industry as a whole is the potential to save some money for producers by lowering feed costs, and there should be added value to bulls that can offer a reduction in feed cost.

### A LOOK AT RFI ELSEWHERE

Although this ability to measure feed efficiency on bulls in performance testing is new for us in the Maritimes, there are other bull test stations across the continent that have had this ability for a few years, and some surprisingly complex analysis of the sale data has been done from one test station in particular, the Midland Bull Test in Columbus, Montana. The results were published in the *Professional Animal Scientist* in 2010 (volume 26, page 655-660). Economists analyzed two years of sale data from 918 bulls, looking at the value that buyers placed on RFI as well as other traits such as birth weight, and carcass traits.

It turns out that bull buyers paid \$319 more for each one-kilogram improvement in RFI, which is a bit more than McLaughlin's analysis showed on the Maritime Beef Test Station 2013 sale data. However, the average bull price in the Midland test was more than \$3,400, compared to \$2,569 here, so that accounts for some of the difference. According to this paper, birth weight was a more sought-after trait than RFI. Looking at the range in the RFI values from the bulls on the two years of testing shows a similar spread to what we saw here in the Maritimes, suggesting our opportunity to select for feed efficiency is similar to that in other parts of the world.

One of the biggest eye-openers in the article was the estimated potential benefit to using a bull with an RFI of only -1, which means he ate about one kilogram feed less than expected

during the test period based on his size and performance. Using such a bull on a 30-cow herd for a six-year period (presumably as a terminal cross) could potentially result in more than \$14,000 in feed savings on calves alone, suggesting that the small price paid for improved RFI can yield a pretty big payback. However, the authors were quick to point out these are potential savings only. Management still plays a big role in realizing those returns.

### PASTURE MIXES

The second round of beef pasture research funded through the Beef Research cluster is well underway here. When we started studying the effect of different pasture mixtures on beef performance we knew that to properly

**Using such a bull on a 30-cow herd for a six-year period could potentially result in more than \$14,000 in feed savings**

understand which mixtures may benefit beef production on pasture the most, it was going to be a longer term study. This will be the third year of collecting data, and we look to have two more years of data to follow. Between variations in weather from year to year and the time it takes for a perennial pasture to stabilize after seeding, five years of data is really the minimum needed to draw conclusions. This summer has been a great pasture summer here at Nappan, and I am happy to see that the alfalfa and trefoil are both still strong in their respective pastures. I should have an update on this season's production in coming issues of *Atlantic Beef*.

(John Duynisveld is a research biologist with the Crops and Livestock Research Centre in Nappan, N.S.)



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September 21, 2013

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# Can genomics help the cattle industry?

by **Charlie Gracie**

The undeniable benefits of genomics to the dairy industry are already becoming apparent. That is because the dairy industry prepared for this opportunity by taking the necessary steps, beginning with recording milk and butterfat production, sire-proving based on those records, generalizing the use of artificial insemination, followed by, logically, ova transplants.

The beef cattle industry has pursued similar goals, but in a far less focused manner. Early success was achieved in testing potential sires for growth rate and sometimes for feed efficiency, but the big boost in growth rate came from the injection of European breeds and crossbreeding. Carcass characteristics, such as “quality” and carcass composition, or lean meat yield, have been left to a grading system that is highly subjective on the quality side and highly unreliable on the carcass composition side.

## MAKING THE GRADE

On the quality side, the main determinant of quality is youthfulness and the level of marbling. Inasmuch as reliable data now confirms a high proportion of fed cattle are slaughtered before they reach 24 months of age, youthfulness is no longer a factor – but is now a given. A very small percentage of these youthful carcasses are downgraded to B1 (0.1 percent) because the carcass carries less than 2mm of fat cover at the rib site; B2 (0.04 percent) because the fat color is too yellow, denoting insufficient grain feeding; B3 (0.45 percent) because the carcass lacks muscling to the point of emaciation, and, the only real problem; B4 (1.1 percent) because the carcass is a “dark cutter.” Thus, we are left with 98.3 percent of the youthful slaughter to be divided up on the basis of level of marbling into Canada Prime (1.8 percent), AAA (57.85 percent), AA (36.88 percent), and the rapidly disappearing A

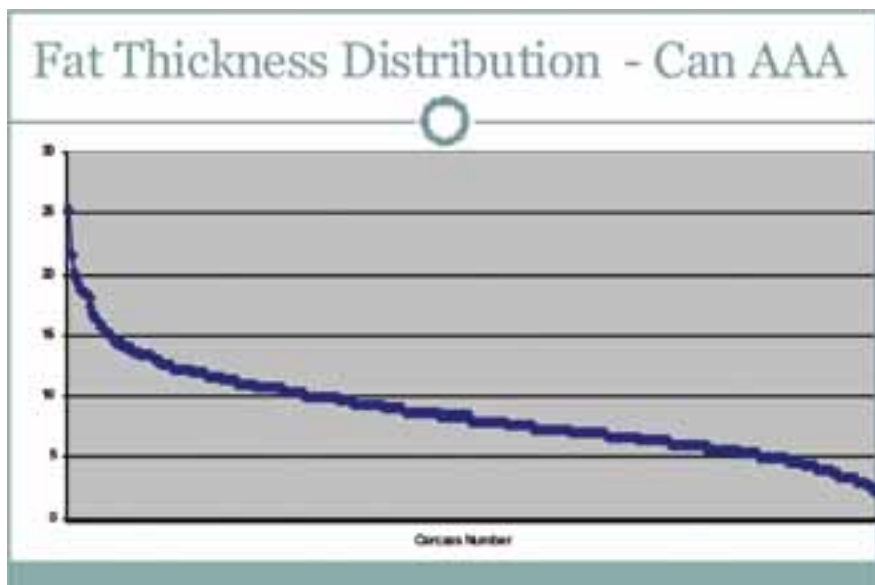
(1.71 percent). It can be seen here that about 95 percent of the time the grader is deciding between AAA and AA. The data cited here comes from January to July 6, 2013 grading results.

On the yield side, the carcasses are sorted into three yield classes. The highest yielding or Y-1 group encompasses 52 percent of all carcasses. The Y-2 group comprises 32 percent and the lowest yielding Y-3 makes up just 16 percent. One might be tempted to think that this is a good result, with more than half the carcasses making the top yield category. But carcass lean meat yield is a continuum, and there is more variation within the Y-1 grade than in the Y-2 and Y-3 combined. If you make a group of the best 52 percent of the hockey players in the NHL, the group will run all the way from slightly below-average players to the superstars. We are at last moving to adopt a five-yield-grade classification, which is a small step in the right direction. But one has to wonder why we are taking this small step when the technology now in use can estimate the yield of a carcass with acceptable accuracy to a single percentage point, as in 68 percent? Likewise, if desirable or necessary, the equipment now approved for grading can break the marbling score down into finer increments.

The quality grade and the yield classification are two of the most important economic characteristics of beef cattle. The former, quality, is somewhat subjective, but is of real significance because this is important to retailers, restaurateurs, and consumers – arguably. Yield, on the other hand, is real and factual, and once a base price for quality has been established the value of the carcass is determined by its lean meat yield – or should be.

But this is the major failing of the beef industry. Variations in lean-meat yield are known to exist, and can now be measured objectively, but are not well reflected in the pricing system. Packers pay a bit of lip service by offering a modest “premium” for Y-1 cattle, but this so-called premium does not begin to reward superior high-yielding carcasses and does not discount inferior or low-yielding carcasses.

The predictable result of paying significant premiums for AAA or higher carcasses and of paying only casual attention to the yield component is now becoming apparent. From 2000 to 2013 the proportion of carcasses grading AAA or better has risen from 46 percent to more than 59 percent. That’s impressive, but it has come at a cost, with the Y-1 carcasses declining from 64 percent to 52 percent.



## Pricing Cattle Step 1 and 2

- Base Price – Market driven e.g \$2.00
- Quality Premiums and discounts
  - Prime +\$0.10
  - AAA +\$0.04
  - AA -\$0.04
  - A -\$0.08
- Adj. Base Price \$2.04 for a AAA

carcasses. The other half had at least 7.5 mm of fat cover, increasing all the way up to more than 20 mm of fat and were increasingly undesirable carcasses.

### FAT THICKNESS DISTRIBUTION

The point is that we can have both high quality and high yield, but we cannot achieve this unless the industry adopts strategies and policies to make this possible.

The first thing we need to do is to measure yield and quality more accurately within the grading system. We are doing

This is entirely understandable from a producer's viewpoint. The desire to obtain the AAA premium militates against high yield, and that is proven in the grading data presented above.

What is missing here is an appreciation that, even though quality and yield are somewhat antagonistic, it is perfectly possible to combine high quality and high yield in the same carcass. I demonstrated this repeatedly with the work we did at Natural Valley in the early 2000s. The Fat Thickness Distribution chart presents that proof again. This chart plots the fat thickness of 664 beef carcasses that were graded AAA. Note that about half of those carcasses had a fat thickness of 7.5 mm or less and were therefore increasingly more desirable

a decent job on the quality side, though the level of marbling could be subdivided into more quality divisions. We will do a better job on the yield side when we finally begin to use the camera-based technology that has already been approved for the purpose.

But better, more accurate grading using instrumentation will not be enough. That grade information must find its way back to the farmers who produce the calves. Until the cow-calf producers get this kind of information they will lack the resources they need to alter their breeding decisions to produce the right kind of cattle, capable of producing high-quality and high-yielding carcasses.

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## Pricing Cattle Step 3

- **Adj. Base Price \$2.04**
- **Yield Base 73%**
- **Carcass 1 - 75% Price =  $2.04 \times 75/73 = \$2.10$**
- **Carcass 2 - 71% Price =  $2.04 \times 71/73 = \$1.98$**


carcass basis as the base price. This may not be in accord with current prices, but is for illustration only.

### PRICING CATTLE CHARTS

At the beginning of this article I mentioned the impact genomics is having on our sister industry, the dairy industry. But that industry already had the building blocks needed to take full advantage of emerging genomics. The beef cattle industry cannot and will not benefit fully from genomics until it learns to measure the economically important traits of a beef carcass more accurately,

But even that is not enough to transform the industry. What is needed most of all is a pricing system that gives full and proper weight to both quality and yield. The present pricing system favors quality and actually discriminates against yield. Such a pricing system is simplicity itself. A price is negotiated by whatever means between buyer and seller. That base price is based on the quality grade, as is the case at present. This can work in an auction ring or in direct-to-packer sales, sealed bids, or whatever. Once that price is settled for each quality grade an adjustment is made for the lean meat content or percentage yield of the carcass. The following two charts show how simple this is. I am using \$2/lb

adopts a pricing system that recognizes real differences in value related to both yield and quality, and finds a way to share that information and those price signals up and down the value chain. Trying to bypass these simple initial steps will thwart any efforts at real improvement. What would a caveman do with a screwdriver?

(Charlie Gracey is a retired livestock industry consultant with special experience and expertise in the beef cattle industry and in international trade. He lives with his wife Donna Gracey in Ancaster, Ontario.) 

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# Dollars in hand

## How Growing Forward 2 affects your bottom line

by Guy LeBlanc

Most of you by now should have received information regarding the federal-provincial “Growing Forward 2 – Livestock Genetic Enhancements Program.” I would like to take this opportunity to talk about some of the enhancements and changes we have made under this new five-year agreement. As I mentioned in my last column, the focus of this program is to increase the quality and profitability of our beef herds and sheep flocks through the selection of superior genetics.

### IMPORTANT CHANGES

The biggest enhancements and changes are in the Beef Elite Sires, Beef Elite Females, Sheep Elite Ram, and Elite Ewe components of the program.

For the Beef Elite Sires component, the assistance levels have been in-

creased from 20 percent to 30 percent of the purchase cost. On top of that, qualifying bulls could be eligible for additional bonuses. Test station bulls with an average daily gain (ADG) index of 100 or better can receive an additional \$100 premium. Test station bulls with three expected progeny differences (EPDs) that are breed average or above on production and/or carcass traits can receive an additional \$100. Test station bulls with negative residual feed intake (RFI – a negative number means better efficiency) can also receive an additional \$100. Home-tested bulls can be eligible for the 30 percent assistance if they have a minimum of three EPDs that are breed average or above.

The assistance level for Beef Elite Female component has also been bumped up from 20 percent to 30 percent of the purchase cost. Only females with a

minimum of two EPDs that are breed average or above on production and/or carcass traits will qualify. Females with three EPDs for those traits will be eligible for an additional \$100 bonus. The purchase of superior embryos will also be considered for assistance.

The assistance levels for the Elite Ram and Elite Ewe components are also 30 percent of the purchase cost. As well, there are \$50 bonuses for rams and ewes that have three EPDs that are breed average or above and a \$50 bonus for rams and ewes having the genotype “RR” for resistant to scrapie.

### BUT WAIT, THERE’S MORE

Other notable changes to the program are the Genetic Testing components for both beef and sheep. Beef herds and sheep flocks could be eligible for 100 percent assistance of costs up to \$500

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per herd or flock for enrolment in a herd or flock genetic evaluation program, purchase of herd or flock management/production software, genotyping cost, or ultrasound cost. In addition, beef producers can receive up to \$200 per bull for consigning their animal into an approved test station.

Once again, the Beef Herd Renewal component will be available. The assistance level will be \$150 per confirmed bred heifer. The maximum assistance amount per beef herd will be \$2,000 per farm. This component is supported solely by provincial funds. Funding for these retention activities will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Beef and sheep farmers should take

note the application and claims process will be different under this new funding agreement. Those applying will have to submit an application form. In turn, our office will send you a letter of offer that you will have to sign and return to us. Once you have completed your purchases or completed your project(s) you must submit the attached claim form along with the necessary supporting documentation. Previously, you just applied and completed the claim form. Now a letter of offer must be signed and returned to us.


Applications and claims will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. The deadline date for all applications will be Feb. 28, 2014. Once you receive

your letter of offer, please take note of the deadline date to submit your claims.

As in other years, beef farmers must be in good standing with the New Brunswick Cattle Producers before any assistance will be paid out.

If you require more information, applications, guidelines, and other available programming can be found by clicking the Growing Forward 2 link at AtlanticFarmer.com.

Hope you all can join us at the New Brunswick Beef Expo on September 21 and 22, 2013, in Sussex, N.B.

(New Brunswick Livestock Development Specialist – Beef, Guy LeBlanc, works out of Fredericton.) 

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## *Angus Events!*

**September 18, 2013** - Canadian Angus Rancher Endorsed (Green tag) Sale - Sussex, NB - 11:30 am

**September 21, 2013** - Angus Gold Show - Beef Expo - Sussex, NB

**October 13, 2013** - Maritime Fall Fair Angus Gold Show - Halifax, NS

**October 19, 2013** - Canadian Angus Rancher Endorsed (Green Tag) Sale - Atlantic Stockyards - Truro, NS

**October 26, 2013** - Angus in Action Sale - Nappan, NS

**November** - Provincial Angus Associations - Annual Meetings - check your provincial contacts

**December 1, 2013** - Maritime Angus Annual Meeting - Amherst, NS

**April 12, 2014** - Canadian Angus Rancher Endorsed (Green Tag) Sale - Atlantic Stockyards - Truro, NS





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windcrest.farm@ns.sympatico.ca

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Ph: 1-819-826-3026

# Breed Notes

Exhibitors from all three Maritime provinces showed 58 entries at the 2013 P.E.I. Provincial Exhibition Angus Gold Show held on August 16. Judge Rick Johnson of Maidstone, Sask., chose JEM Pioneer 12A, owned by Julie Mutch, as Grand Champion Bull, and MacKinnon Homestead's MKHF Black Hawk 134A owned by John MacKinnon took Reserve.

Bannockburn Valley ESK 44Y owned by Bannockburn Valley Farm was Grand Champion Female and eventual Genex Supreme Grand Champion at the 2013 Old Home Week Beef Show. Boyd Dixon's Bannockburn Valley Farm received Premier Breeder and Premier Exhibitor awards. Complete show results are available by visiting the P.E.I. Provincial Ex Angus Show Results link at [AtlanticFarmer.com](http://AtlanticFarmer.com).

The Canadian Beef Breeds Council (CBC) recently announced Michael Latimer as its new executive director. Latimer brings a wealth of experience in the beef cattle industry to the position, and has recently held the position of general manager for the Canadian Angus Association. He is a fifth generation purebred

cattle producer and has participated in a number of breed promotional activities including strategic planning sessions for the Canadian Beef Breeds Council.

The Canadian Limousin Association (CLA) held its 44th Annual General Meeting on Aug. 3 in Neepawa, Manitoba. At the meeting the CLA announced its 2013-2014 Board of Directors, which comprises Brian Lee (president), Terry Hepper (vice-president), Bill Zwambag (treasurer), and Directors Tim Andrew, Eric Boon, Lynn Combest, Luc Forcier, Jim Richmond, and Kelly Yorga. Zwambag and Boon are new to the CLA board, while Combest is returning for a second term of three years.

The Angus show at the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition Grounds in Truro August 22 with 37 entries was a great success. JEM Farms from P.E.I. won Champion Bull and Champion Female with JEM Pioneer and JEM Classy Lady respectively.

Reserve Bull was RG Ares from RG Angus Farm in Belnan, N.S., and Reserve Female was Bannockburn Valley Rose 4Z from the Boyd Dixon family's

Bannockburn Valley Farm. The farm also took home the Premier Breeder and Exhibitor awards.

The Canadian Charolais Association (CCA) announced August 12 it has decided to end the employment of its general manager. The position will not be filled in the immediate future, with the Association instead using office staff and specialist consultants in various fields to serve its membership.

The Canadian Hereford Association has released its 2013 Fall Expected Progeny Differences (EPD) results through the Total Herd Evaluation (THE) program. THE is a complete herd reporting system to evaluate performance traits. Participating in THE provides performance reports (adjusted weights, indexes and ranks) and EPDs, which are run twice per year. For more information or to enroll, please contact [val@hereford.ca](mailto:val@hereford.ca) or call toll-free, 1-888-836-7242. For the 2013 Fall results, click the Hereford EPD 2013 link at [AtlanticFarmer.com](http://AtlanticFarmer.com).

The annual Igenity Angus Futurity Classic was held Aug. 17 at the P.E.I. Provincial Exhibition. The judging panel of Buddy Loane, Ian Drake, and Brendon Crane selected JEM Pioneer 12A, owned by Julie Mutch, as Champion Bull Calf, while Joanne and Ernie Mutch's JEM Erica 9A was Champion Heifer Calf. Champion Yearling was Bannockburn Valley Rose 4Z, owned by the Boyd Dixon Family. Kyle Younker's Wheatley River Yasmine was Champion Two Year Old and Calf. Complete Futurity results are available by visiting the 2013 Old Home Week Futurity link at [AtlanticFarmer.com](http://AtlanticFarmer.com).

The 40th Anniversary National Salers Show is being held October 10-12 at the Expo Boeuf in Victoriaville, QC, and is being co-hosted by the Quebec Salers, Ontario Salers, and Maritime Salers Associations. Sale applications were due Aug. 1, but show registration forms are



**OHW Grand and Supreme Champion female was Bannockburn Valley ESK 27A, shown by Hannah Dixon. Left is the event judge, Rick Johnson, from Maidstone, Sask. (Dora MacKinley photo)**

available online and private sale of all animals not in the sale itself is welcomed and encouraged. For more information contact [tammimcgee@yahoo.com](mailto:tammimcgee@yahoo.com), or call 1-819-665-5581.



From left to right: Burt Grundy, president of the Canadian Hereford Association; Heather and Ross Tracy, judges; Andrew Dixon with Grand Champion Female Burnside Yedda 9W; and Hannah Dixon with calf Burnside Yedda 9A. (Pat Ward Photo)

Sixty head of Hereford cattle were shown at the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition August 22. Competition was particularly fierce in the Two-Year-Old class, with eight pairs shown. Judges Ross Tracy and his daughter Heather Tracy were confronted with powerful Herefords when it came time to choose the Grand Champion Female. The eventual winner was Burnside Yedda 9W, owned and shown by Hannah Dixon. Reserve Champion was OLTN 3W Fanny 5Z, owned and shown by Victor Oulton. Grand Champion Bull was Burnside Rib Eye 13Z, also owned and shown by Hannah Dixon, who, not surprisingly, also was named Premier Breeder and Premier Exhibitor.

The Canadian Junior Limousin association (CJLA) says juniors are encouraged to apply to receive one of four \$250 scholarships by submitting a one-page essay describing involvement with the Limousin breed. Essays can be submitted to Terry Hepper by email at [thepper@yourlink.ca](mailto:thepper@yourlink.ca) or by fax, 306-781-4628. Application deadline is Oct. 1, 2013.

A number of Field Day Awards were announced at the Maritime Angus Field Day weekend June 14-15 at the NSPEG in Truro, N.S. The Canadian Angus  
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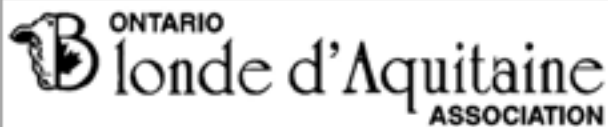
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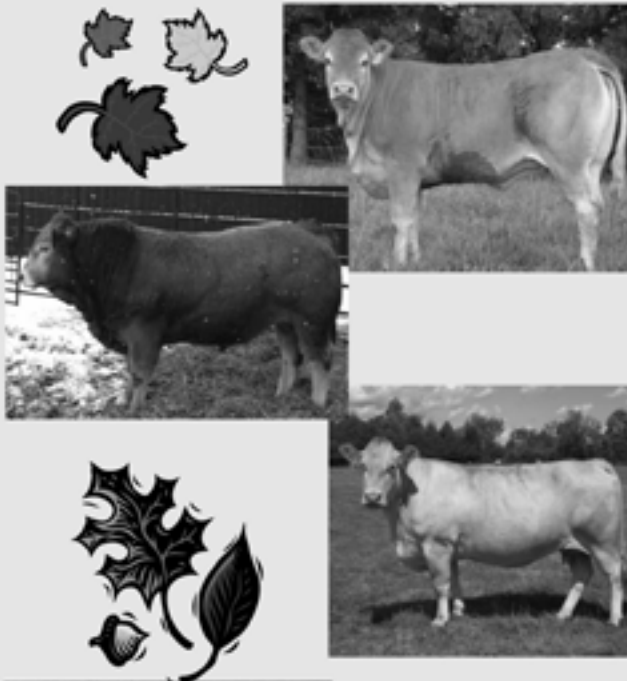
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<p><b>Philip Burgess &amp; Family</b> Fairmount, N.S. 902-798-5174</p>	<p><b>Gordon &amp; Doreen Fraser</b> W. River Station, N.S. 902-396-4356</p>	<p><b>Roger &amp; Lorraine Farjoy</b> Waterford, N.B. 506-453-5657</p>	<p><b>Margaret &amp; Raymond Murray</b> River John, N.S. 902-551-2611</p>

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Association 50-Year Heritage Award went to Dorothy Nielsen of Brookfield, N.S., and their Foundation Stock Farm. The Honorary President of the Maritime Angus Association was given to Harold Nielsen. The Maritime Commercial Breeder of the Year was awarded to Tom and Angela O'Neil, Mountain Pride Farm, Digby, N.S. Order of Good Times Certificates were presented to Canadian Angus Association CEO Rob Smith of Olds, Alta., Canadian Angus Association President Kevin Blair of Lanigan, Sask, and Canadian Angus Junior Ambassador Stacey Jo Domolewski, Taber, Alta. 🐄

**Breed Notes**

If you come across any news about your breed of cattle, please pass it along for inclusion in *Atlantic Beef's* "Breed Notes" column. We will do our best to include all items (news, snapshots, etcetera). Deadline for the next issue is Nov. 19.

**4-H EastGen**



Lexi Ettenger of Nova Scotia and Number 2, sired by Sharlo Yimbo Sy, compete in Beef Showmanship Class 1 at EastGen. For a full list of results of the EastGen Atlantic 4-H showcase and more photos visit the EastGen Atlantic 4-H showcase link at [AtlanticFarmer.com](http://AtlanticFarmer.com).

(Pam MacKenzie photo)

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\*Offer valid from August 1, 2013 until October 25, 2013. Dealers are free to set individual prices. Additional dealer fees may apply. Financing on approved John Deere Financial credit only. See dealer for details. Limited time offer which may not be combined with other offers. Discounts or other incentives may be available for cash purchases. By selecting the purchase financing offer, consumers may be foregoing such discounts and incentives which may result in a higher effective interest rate. 400% purchase financing for 5 years on new John Deere SM Utility Tractors. Down payment may be required. Taxes, set-up, delivery, freight, preparation charges and a \$50 documentation fee will apply. Representative Amount Financed: \$50,000, at 0% APR, semi-annual payment is \$5,000 for 5 years, total obligation is \$50,000, cost of borrowing is \$0. Semi-annual payments/ cost of borrowing will vary depending on amount borrowed/ down payment. MSRP cash price based on highest priced product in series: \$79,378 (with selection of cash rebate offer, \$78,378) (includes \$50 documentation fee). Cost of borrowing based on Representative Amount Financed not MSRP cash price. Minimum finance amount may be required, representative amount does not guarantee offer applies. The charge for amounts past due is 24% per annum.